

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$3.55 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 38,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$3.55 million, in 2002.

This compares with losses totaling 42,000 head with a value of \$4.10 million in 2001.

Predator losses at 24.2 percent, accounted for 9,200 losses worth a value of \$859,000. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 7,100 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$664,000. Bears claimed 700 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$65,000; dogs and cougars caused 300 deaths each, valued at \$28,000 respectively; and fox killed 100 head,

valued at \$9,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 700 head of sheep and lambs.

Non predator losses accounted for 28,800 head worth a value of \$2,693,000. Disease claimed 9,800 sheep and lambs in 2002 valued at \$916,000. Lambing complications claimed 5,900; weather killed 4,600 head; old age killed 1,500 and poison killed 1,400 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 2,200 sheep and lamb deaths during 2002.

Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 2000-02 ^{1/}

Cause of Death	Sheep						Lambs						Value of All Sheep and Lambs 3/4/5/		
	Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/			Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/					
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
1,000 Dollars															
Coyote	2,000	1,500	900	20.0	15.0	9.0	7,900	7,300	6,200	24.7	22.8	22.1	1,025	858	664
Dog	300	200	100	3.0	2.0	1.0	1,000	500	200	3.1	1.6	0.7	135	68	28
Bear	300	300	300	3.0	3.0	3.0	600	400	400	1.9	1.3	1.4	93	68	65
Cougar	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	400	200	200	1.3	0.6	0.7	62	29	28
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	300	200	100	0.9	0.6	0.4	31	20	9
Other 6/	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	800	700	400	2.5	2.2	1.4	93	78	37
Unknown Predator	100	100	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	300	400	200	0.9	1.3	0.7	41	49	28
TOTAL PREDATORS	3,000	2,300	1,500	30.0	23.0	15.0	11,300	9,700	7,700	35.3	30.4	27.5	1,480	1,170	859
Weather	100	200	100	1.0	2.0	1.0	3,500	3,500	4,500	10.9	10.9	16.1	373	361	430
Disease	1,200	1,700	3,400	12.0	17.0	34.0	4,600	4,900	6,400	14.4	15.3	22.9	600	644	916
Poison	700	500	700	7.0	5.0	7.0	600	900	700	1.9	2.8	2.5	135	137	131
Lambing Complications	1,200	1,800	1,500	12.0	18.0	15.0	4,000	6,500	4,400	12.5	20.3	15.7	538	809	552
Old Age	1,400	1,800	1,500	14.0	18.0	15.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	145	176	140
Theft	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	300	100	200	0.9	0.3	0.7	52	20	28
On Back	200	200	300	2.0	2.0	3.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21	20	28
Other 7/	600	300	400	6.0	3.0	4.0	3,400	2,200	1,800	10.6	6.9	6.4	414	244	206
Unknown Causes 8/	1,400	1,100	500	14.0	11.0	5.0	4,300	4,200	2,300	13.4	13.1	8.2	590	517	262
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	32,000	32,000	28,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,348	4,098	3,552

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 17,000 in 2000, 20,000 in 2001 and 15,000 in 2002. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2000-\$103.50, 2001-\$97.50, 2002-\$93.50. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ Includes bobcats, eagles, and wolves. 7/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 8/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.